



# LM4x



Spring 2006

*Library of Michigan's Quarterly Newsletter*



## *In Every Issue*

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Made  
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# News from Nancy

State Librarian Nancy R. Robertson



Spring is almost here! While most everyone I know will be thrilled to leave winter behind, I think it's safe to say these colder months were very productive in library land.

In my new role as state librarian I've enjoyed visits to several Michigan libraries. The REMC 17 Advisory Council meeting held at Oakland Schools provided a valuable opportunity to hear firsthand what their school library media center specialists are working on and what they see as challenges.

What I learned there coincides nicely with a discussion I've facilitated at meetings in Lansing, first in August and again in January: the need to "sell" the value of libraries. We will move forward to create a companion marketing piece for a revised benchmarks document. Together, these will provide uniform talking points – to use with state and local funding decision-makers, school administrators, parents, students and teachers – on the necessity for well-staffed, state-of-the-art and adequately funded K-12 school media centers in Michigan.

On a lighter note, I loved attending an elegant reception at the 100-year-old Carnegie branch of the Jackson District Library; the festive rededication of the newly renovated Royal Oak Public Library; and the enthusiastic meeting of the Friends of Michigan Libraries at the fabulous Milford Public Library.

Another milestone is the one-year anniversary of the Michigan eLibrary Catalog (MeLCat), about which you can read more in this newsletter. It's gratifying to watch the catalog expansion and hear patrons' excitement about this growing world of information. Students in participating K-12 schools are reading more than ever before, now that their virtual bookshelf includes 6 million items! As our Julia Meredith notes with a wry smile, what kid doesn't love online shopping!?!



## Lift Your Voice for Michigan Libraries!

Join hundreds of library champions from across the country in sharing stories about your library with members of Congress during the 32nd National Library Legislative Day in Washington, D.C. on May 1 and 2. It's your chance to talk to lawmakers about the needs and accomplishments of Michigan libraries, let them know what a key role libraries play in their communities, and impress upon them the critical importance of LSTA and other federal funding.

State Librarian Nancy Robertson and Gretchen Couraud, executive director of the Michigan Library Association, will head up the Michigan delegation. To maximize time in D.C., it's important that at least one library from every Michigan congressional district is represented.

A briefing will be held May 1 at the Holiday Inn on the Hill to provide background on the issues, with information on specific bills and budget areas. Visits to congressional offices will be made on Tuesday, May 2. If you would like to be part of the delegation advocating for Michigan's libraries, please contact Elaine Harrison at the Library of Michigan at [eharrison@michigan.gov](mailto:eharrison@michigan.gov) or (517) 373-1395.

For more information about National Library Legislative Day, visit the American Library Association Web page at <http://www.ala.org/ala/washoff/washevents/nlld/nationallibrary.htm>.

We hope to attain wide geographic coverage within the MeLCat system. While we want as many public libraries as possible to apply for participation, we also encourage more academic, school and special libraries to join the fun. For patrons, more truly *is* merrier!

If you have questions about whether your library is MeLCat prepared or what the process involves, please don't hesitate to contact

the Library of Michigan or our implementation experts at the Michigan Library Consortium. One year has us off to a great start – will you join us for year two?

Happy spring!

*Nancy*



## Library of Michigan Aims to Educate, Entertain and Inspire with 2006 Michigan Notable Books

The 2006 Michigan Notable Books – recently announced by the Library of Michigan – paint a fascinating portrait of Michigan's people, places and events. This year's collection of top-notch titles covers a great deal of territory, from Irish ancestry and boxing legend Joe Louis to the Motor City music scene and the formative years of what we now know as Michigan State University.

The Michigan Notable Books list annually highlights 20 books published the previous calendar year that are about or set in Michigan or the Great Lakes region or are written by a native or resident of Michigan. Selections include nonfiction and fiction and typically have a wide appeal to the audience, covering a range of topics and issues close to the hearts of Michigan residents.

The Library of Michigan mailed the 2006 Michigan Notable Books poster to libraries in early February. The poster and Michigan Notable Books bookmarks are also available for download at [www.michigan.gov/notablebooks](http://www.michigan.gov/notablebooks). We encourage you to help us promote these outstanding books and authors, along with other Michigan books of your choice, through readings, displays and other special activities all year long.

Michigan Notable Books began (as Read Michigan) as part of the 1991 Michigan Week celebration and continues to play an important role in Michigan Week, an annual salute to the many people, places and things that make Michigan so special. Each title on the 2006 list, whether non-fiction or fiction, gives the reader great insight into what it means to make your home in Michigan and proves, without a doubt, that some of the greatest stories are indeed found in the Great Lakes region. For more information about Michigan Week (May 20-26, 2006), visit [www.michigan.gov/michiganweek](http://www.michigan.gov/michiganweek).

This year's Michigan Notable Books selection committee included representatives from the Library of Michigan, the Michigan Library Association, the Michigan Historical Center, the Grand Rapids Press, the Detroit News, Schuler Books & Music, Archives/Curious Book Shop, the Northland Library Cooperative, Capital Area District Library and Michigan Center for the Book.

The 2006 Michigan Notable Books program kicks off at the Library of Michigan on Saturday afternoon, May 6, with Michigan Author Day. Several of the 2006 Michigan Notable authors will discuss their work and offer book signings between 1 and 5 p.m. An evening reception, hosted by the Library of Michigan Foundation in honor of the 2006 Michigan Notable authors, will follow at 7 p.m. Kevin Boyle, nationally renowned author of "Arc of Justice: A Saga of Race, Civil Rights and Murder in the Jazz Age" and a 2005 Michigan Notable author, will be keynote speaker.

Several of the Michigan Notable authors will visit 48 libraries across the state in May and June, giving book lovers many opportunities to meet authors and attend readings. A complete schedule of activities will be available on the Notable Books Web page after April 1.

The 2006 Michigan Notable Books program is sponsored by the Michigan Humanities Council, the National Endowment for the Humanities, Cooley Law School, ProQuest, LaSalle Bank, the Library of Michigan, the Library of Michigan Foundation, Michigan Center for the Book and Schuler Books & Music. The Library of Michigan is proud to welcome the Lansing State Journal as a media partner.

For more information about the Michigan Notable Books program, including descriptions of the titles and previous years' lists, visit [www.michigan.gov/notablebooks](http://www.michigan.gov/notablebooks). Questions about the selected books and author events can be directed to (517) 373-1300 or [michigannotablebooks@michigan.gov](mailto:michigannotablebooks@michigan.gov).



# The 2006 Michigan Notable Books are:

- “Beast of Never, Cat of God: The Search for the Eastern Puma” by Bob Butz (Lyons Press)
- “Beyond Glory: Joe Louis vs. Max Schmeling, and a World on the Brink” by David Margolick (Alfred A. Knopf)
- “Booking Passage: We Irish and Americans” by Thomas Lynch (W.W. Norton & Company)
- “The Dodge Brothers: The Men, the Motor Cars, and the Legacy” by Charles K. Hyde (Wayne State University Press)
- “Grit, Noise, & Revolution: The Birth of Detroit Rock ‘n’ Roll” by David A. Carson (University of Michigan Press)
- “Harry Sue” by Sue Stauffacher (Alfred A. Knopf)
- “How Like an Angel: A Novel” by Jack Driscoll (University of Michigan Press)
- “The Lake, the River & the Other Lake: A Novel” by Steve Amick (Pantheon Books)
- “Legends of Light: A Michigan Lighthouse Portfolio” photographs by Ed Wargin (Ann Arbor Media Group)
- “Made in Detroit: A South of 8 Mile Memoir” by Paul Clemens (Doubleday)
- “Michigan Agricultural College: The Evolution of a Land-grant Philosophy, 1855-1925” by Keith R. Widder (Michigan State University Press)
- “Michigan Shadow Towns: A Study of Vanishing and Vibrant Villages” by Gene Scott (Gene Scott)
- “Mighty Fitz: The Sinking of the *Edmund Fitzgerald*” by Michael Schumacher (Bloomsbury)
- “Please Don’t Come Back from the Moon” by Dean Bakopoulos (Harcourt)
- “Singing in a Strange Land: C.L. Franklin, the Black Church, and the Transformation of America” by Nick Salvatore (Little, Brown, and Company)
- “Soapy: A Biography of G. Mennen Williams” by Thomas J. Noer (University of Michigan Press)
- “The Summer He Didn’t Die” by Jim Harrison (Atlantic Monthly Press)
- “Under Michigan: The Story of Michigan’s Rocks and Fossils” by Charles Ferguson Barker (Wayne State University Press)
- “Vintage Views of the Charlevoix-Petoskey Region” by M. Christine Byron and Thomas R. Wilson (Petoskey Publishing / University of Michigan Press)
- “Winter’s Tale: An Original Pop-up Journey” by Robert Sabuda (Little Grove)



# Michigan Reads! to Preschoolers in March



Libraries, parents and caregivers around the state will join in reading “Bed Hogs” to preschoolers this March as part of the Michigan Reads! one-state, one-preschool-book program.

Michigan Reads! was launched in 2004 by the Library of Michigan in partnership with the Michigan Center for the Book to promote the value and benefits of reading early and often to preschoolers; to encourage family bonding through reading; and to increase awareness and usage of Michigan’s hundreds of public libraries.

Written by local author Kelly DiPucchio (who grew up in Rochester and currently lives in Macomb Township), “Bed Hogs” was the preschool book that captured the most votes for Michigan Reads! It is the engaging story of Little Runt, who grows weary of sharing a straw bed with his parents and siblings and kicks them out one by one. Only when he has the bed all to himself does Little Runt realize it’s scary and lonesome without his family around him.

State Librarian Nancy Robertson called it “a terrific book around which libraries, parents and caregivers statewide can create meaningful reading experiences this coming March.” In addition to events at libraries statewide, a special Michigan Reads! celebration with Kelly DiPucchio is set for March 11 at the Clinton-Macomb Public Library.

For information and resources to help you with Michigan Reads! activities in your community – including “Bed Hogs” programming and activity tools – visit [www.michigan.gov/michiganreads](http://www.michigan.gov/michiganreads).

This year, the Michigan Reads! program is sponsored by Brogan & Partners, Michigan Education Savings Program, Michigan Education Trust, Auto-Owners Insurance and the Library of Michigan Foundation.

# Ernie Harwell and Alan Trammell Go to Bat for Michigan’s Public Libraries Again

Hall of Fame broadcaster Ernie Harwell and former Detroit Tigers Manager Alan Trammell – both lifelong library supporters who believe that Michigan’s public libraries are a valued, but under-supported, state treasure – once again are generously lending their time, good names and Tigers memorabilia to help libraries build a stronger funding foundation.



On Sunday, May 21, when the Tigers take on the Cincinnati Reds at Comerica Park, Mr. Harwell will be in the press box to announce “Library Day” and cheer on Michigan libraries. For every \$20 ticket sold for the game as part of this fund-raising effort, \$9 will be distributed back to Michigan libraries via the Library of Michigan Foundation.

*Alan Trammell (left) and Ernie Harwell*

This marks the second year in what will hopefully become a long-term awareness and fund-raising campaign for our public libraries. Last year, the \$15,000 raised was used to start nine library endowment funds around the state.

Led by this year’s campaign co-chairs Jennifer Dean, director of the Northland Library Cooperative, and James Seidl, director of the Woodlands Library Cooperative, Michigan’s library cooperatives are enlisting the aid of libraries statewide in selling tickets.

Tickets will be available for sale from March 1 until April 28. The schedule for ticket sales will be as follows:

March 1-31. . . .First ticket sales. . . . .Due April 5  
April 1-14. . . . .Second ticket sales. . . . .Due April 19  
April 15-28. . . .Final ticket sales. . . . .Due May 3\*

Co-ops that do not participate in this year’s program should recognize that their members will not be eligible for funds raised by the campaign. Any effort by a cooperative to sell tickets will qualify the cooperative members for funding.

# Thank You, Library of Michigan Volunteers!

The Library of Michigan Foundation recently hosted a special gathering in honor of the many volunteers who generously contribute their time and efforts to the Library of Michigan. A dedicated group of outstanding individuals, these volunteers provide much needed “behind-the-scenes” support to the staff. The Telephone Pioneers, retired Bell Telephone workers, repair the playback equipment for library patrons. Volunteer narrators record approximately 30 titles a year for the Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, to make special titles on Michigan history and Michigan fiction available to SBPH patrons. Other volunteers help with genealogy indexing projects, assist patrons with the use of machines and serve at the staff information desk.

It is thanks in large part to the dedication and hard work of its volunteers that the Library of Michigan continues to provide quality services to the people of Michigan.

A special plaque was unveiled in the library’s atrium with the name of all the Library of Michigan volunteers.

## More than one year of service

Karla Brintley  
Mike Gambotto  
Rita Holtham  
Lori Poznanski-Mason  
Geneva Wiskemann  
Ruth Z. Lewis  
Sonhee Mercer  
Herb Mercer  
Library of Michigan Staff  
Jeremy Beutler  
Yvonne Koos  
Cynthia Grostick  
Carol Tonkin  
Gene Blood  
Judy Zack  
Peter McCubbin  
Adam Geldreich

Karen Krugman  
Helen Berner  
Jesse Lasorda  
Lillian Gibson  
Pat Currigan  
Sharon Hitchcock  
Carolyn Stell  
Barbara Koval  
Diane Oslund  
Laura Wise  
Dennis North  
Ned Curtis

## More than three years of service

Michael P. Donovan  
Nichole Leslie

## More than five years of service

Andy Andersen

## More than 10 years of service

Karen Glaser  
George Merva

## More than 15 years of service

Betty Anspach  
Mary Hartshorn  
Leo Hawken  
Jill Ireby  
George Kost  
Keith Morley  
James Nolan  
Joseph Renaud  
Richard Vogt  
Lowell Wilson



*Pictured, left to right, are Library of Michigan volunteers (front row) Mike Gambotto, Diane Oslund, Carol Tonkin, James Nolan; (middle row) Leo Hawkins, Karen Krugman, Pat Currigan, Geneva Wiskemann, George Kost; (back row) Keith Morley, Joe Renaud, Yvonne Koos, Ruth Z. Lewis, Jesse Lasorda, Adam Geldreich, Richard Vogt, Lowell Wilson.*



# Center for the Book Awards Grants for Literary Events

The Michigan Center for the Book (MCFB) recently announced the grant recipients for its first funding period in 2006. Applications for the second funding period will be accepted from May 1 to June 1, 2006. The following libraries received funding for a variety of 2006 literary events that help MCFB promote an awareness of books, reading, literacy, authors and Michigan's rich literary heritage.



## Author Visits

- \*Brighton District Library  
M. L. Liebler and the Magic Poetry Band - April 11
- Grosse Pointe Public Library  
Senior Symposium - May
- Roseville Public Library  
Rhonda Gowler Green - April 6 for National Library Week.

## Book Festivals

- \*Grand Rapids Public Library  
Second Annual Celebration of the Book – Oct. 16-22
- Mount Clemens Public Library  
Macomb Book Fair – Feb. 11
- \*Southfield Public Library  
Southfield Books and Beyond – Sept. 16-17

## “One Book” Events

- Harrison Community Library  
Mid-Michigan Reads - March 13 to April 7
- Ionia County Library Association  
On the Same Page in Ionia County - March 25
- \*Metro Net Library Consortium  
Everyone's Reading *Shadow Divers* – Feb. 1 to April 5
- \*Michigan Center for the Book affiliates

To learn more about the Michigan Center for the Book, visit [www.michigan.gov/mcfb](http://www.michigan.gov/mcfb). For more information on funding availability and for forms, please contact MCFB Coordinator Karren Reish at [kreish@michigan.gov](mailto:kreish@michigan.gov) or (517) 373-3891.

***It's official!*** Nancy Robertson is Michigan's newest state librarian. The Library of Michigan recently hosted a celebration to mark the official start of Nancy's tenure heading up the state library. Guests from libraries and cooperatives around the state had the chance to congratulate Nancy, learn more about her background and her vision for Michigan libraries, and enjoy refreshments generously provided by Thomson Gale. Attendees heard remarks from Bill Anderson, director of the Department of History, Arts and Libraries; Cliff Haka, director of Michigan State University Libraries and former LM board chair; and Nancy herself, and got to know the state librarian a little better during a Q-and-A session.



*State Librarian Nancy Robertson (left) and Sheryl Mase, director of Statewide Services for the Library of Michigan*



*Bill Anderson, director of the Department of History, Arts and Libraries*

*Cliff Haka, director of Michigan State University Libraries*



# Handy URLs for Library of Michigan Web Pages

Want to quickly access a Library of Michigan Web page ([www.michigan.gov/libraryofmichigan](http://www.michigan.gov/libraryofmichigan)) without navigating through the whole site? Here's a list of URLs that will take you directly to often-requested LM pages.

1870 Census: [www.michigan.gov/1870census](http://www.michigan.gov/1870census)

Ask-A-Librarian: [www.michigan.gov/askalibrarian](http://www.michigan.gov/askalibrarian)

Author Visits at Your Library:  
[www.michigan.gov/authorvisits](http://www.michigan.gov/authorvisits)

Census and Statistical Data: [www.michigan.gov/census](http://www.michigan.gov/census)

Family History Month (October):  
[www.michigan.gov/familyhistory](http://www.michigan.gov/familyhistory)

Federal Depository Library Program:  
[www.michigan.gov/fdlp](http://www.michigan.gov/fdlp)

Funding for Libraries: [www.michigan.gov/libraryfunding](http://www.michigan.gov/libraryfunding)

Law Library: [www.michigan.gov/lawlibrary](http://www.michigan.gov/lawlibrary)

Library of Michigan Announcements:  
[www.michigan.gov/lma](http://www.michigan.gov/lma)

Library of Michigan Foundation:  
[www.michigan.gov/lmfoundation](http://www.michigan.gov/lmfoundation)

Library Trustee Programs: [www.michigan.gov/librarytrustee](http://www.michigan.gov/librarytrustee)

LSTA (Library Services and Technology Act):  
[www.michigan.gov/lsta](http://www.michigan.gov/lsta)

MichiCard: [www.michigan.gov/michicard](http://www.michigan.gov/michicard)

Michigan Cemetery Sources Database:  
[www.michigan.gov/cemeteries](http://www.michigan.gov/cemeteries)

Michigan Center for the Book: [www.michigan.gov/mcfc](http://www.michigan.gov/mcfc)

Michigan eLibrary (MeL): [www.michigan.gov/mel](http://www.michigan.gov/mel)

Michigan Notable Books: [www.michigan.gov/notablebooks](http://www.michigan.gov/notablebooks)

Michigan Reads!: [www.michigan.gov/michiganreads](http://www.michigan.gov/michiganreads)

QSAC (Quality Services Audit Checklist):  
[www.michigan.gov/qsac](http://www.michigan.gov/qsac)

SBPH (Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped):  
[www.michigan.gov/sbph](http://www.michigan.gov/sbph)

SBPH Talking Book and Braille Catalog:  
[www.michigan.gov/ordertalkingbooks](http://www.michigan.gov/ordertalkingbooks)

Tech for Libraries: [www.michigan.gov/techforlibraries](http://www.michigan.gov/techforlibraries)

Youth Library Services:  
[www.michigan.gov/youthlibraryservice](http://www.michigan.gov/youthlibraryservice)

## *MeL - The Library Made with Me in Mind*

### Don't Miss Out on Free Marketing Materials for MeL!

Not sure how to get the word out to your customers that the Michigan eLibrary is just a mouse-click away? The Library of Michigan and Thomson Gale have partnered to provide Michigan libraries with a variety of free handouts that help your patrons understand exactly how powerful a tool MeL can be in their informational pursuits.

Thomson Gale has generously provided printed copies of some of these marketing materials for distribution to libraries in Michigan. Available for order are bookmarks, stickers and double-sided flyers that explain the basics of MeL. The flyers are 8.5" x 11" and made into tear-off pads for convenience.

To place an order for materials to be sent to your library, go to <http://michigan.gov/mel> and click on "Promotional Materials" or go directly to [http://michigan.gov/hal/0,1607,7-160-17451\\_39174\\_39176---,00.html](http://michigan.gov/hal/0,1607,7-160-17451_39174_39176---,00.html). The materials will be sent to your library via MeL delivery. If your library is not connected to a MeL delivery route (either directly or through your cooperative or REMC), please indicate your postal address. Shipping and handling is provided courtesy of the Michigan Library Consortium. If you have questions about your order, please contact Kelly Bayee at MLC, (800) 530-9019, ext. 120 or [bayee@mlcnet.org](mailto:bayee@mlcnet.org); or Niki Luttrell, ext. 110 or [luttrelln@mlcnet.org](mailto:luttrelln@mlcnet.org).

These promotional items will only be available while quantities last, so place your orders as soon as possible. In addition, high-resolution files of these materials are available for download from this Library of Michigan Web site (<http://michigan.gov/mel>), if you'd like to print copies on your own.



# MeL Grows in Scope and Service

MeLCat went live with 22 libraries in January 2005 and has since expanded to include 79 libraries, including 58 public, 16 academic, four school and one special library (the Library of Michigan). To see which libraries have made the move to bring a wider range of lending materials to their customers, go to <http://elibrary.mel.org/screens/participating.html>. In 2005, MeLCat library patrons submitted 89,072 requests for library materials; libraries loaned 74,923 items to these patrons, for a “fill rate” of 84.1 percent.

Just this past January, patrons made 14,510 requests through MeLCat and libraries loaned 12,942 items to fill these requests. That means, in a given week, patrons in the MeLCat participating libraries were able to obtain more than 3,000 lending items that they otherwise would not have had access to because they weren't available in the patrons' home libraries.

The MeLCat database has (as of Feb. 3) 6,009,493 records representing books, media and other library materials held in the participating libraries, so their patrons have access to this wealth of materials at their fingertips. If all public and academic libraries in the state eventually participate in MeLCat, the database could eventually reach **12 million records**.

MeLCat is growing quickly, with about 30 libraries added every four months. Libraries join MeLCat voluntarily; however, they are responsible for participation in the statewide delivery courier service so that the library materials move around the state quickly. The Library of Michigan has set a goal of 500 libraries participating within five years.

There will be 29 libraries added in the winter 2006 group of libraries scheduled to activate MeLCat for their patrons on May 3, bringing the total number of libraries to 108. This new batch of participants includes 16 public libraries, four academic libraries, eight school libraries (some are school/public combinations), and one special library (UP LBPH).

These libraries stretch from the Keweenaw Peninsula to Paw Paw to Dearborn. MeLCat has a map with 10 regions for the state of Michigan. These regions help patrons locate library materials in their geographic areas, in case they'd like to drive to the libraries to use the materials. With the addition of the winter 2006 group, the Library of Michigan is pleased to see that all 10 regions will now be represented in the MeLCat system.

## *Your Good Ideas*

### Chesterfield Township Library's Move a Cooperative Effort from Start to Finish

*By Marion (Midge) Lusardi, director, Chesterfield Township Library*

Last September, the Chesterfield Township Library saw a year's worth of planning and partnering come to fruition when it held the grand opening of its new location at 50560 Patricia Ave. near Gratiot Avenue and 23 Mile Road. Without the help of some key players – most notably the Macomb County Department of Planning and Economic Development – it would never have happened. At the grand opening, the library was pleased to hear rave reviews from residents and public officials alike.

In the fall of 2004 Macomb County Commissioner Kathy Vosburg initiated discussions between Marion Lusardi, the library's director, and Robert Tess, Macomb County's program manager for economic development. Tess devoted a considerable amount of time to background research, learning critical details about the library's needs for space, location and budget.

“As a result of Tess' efforts and his expertise in real estate and public/private partnerships, I was introduced to Walter Winkle, owner and president of Phoenix Development,” said Lusardi. Winkle owns an industrial development off Gratiot Ave and 23 Mile Road, the two main traffic arteries in Chesterfield Township. Lusardi said that negotiations between the library and Winkle resulted in a five-year structured lease for a building in the industrial park that was visible from the main roads.

“Mr. Winkle generously underwrote half the cost of renovation,” said Lusardi, “and his engineering staff consulted with library employees to achieve an interior that would be functional, attractive and cost-effective.”

Another piece of the puzzle fell into place when the Chesterfield Library was able to acquire shelving, mahogany end caps, computer cubicles and other assorted library furnishings from

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Schoolcraft Community College in Livonia. Schoolcraft College Library Director Roy Nuffer worked with the school's administration to facilitate the sale of the furnishings so that the Friends of Chesterfield Library would be able to underwrite the purchase. The only potential hitch was the price of moving all the furniture and materials from Schoolcraft to Chesterfield.

Lusardi said the cost of moving almost squashed the deal. Fortunately, Selfridge Air National Guard Base is located in Chesterfield and Harrison townships and the Marine Support Squadron volunteered to dismantle, pack and move everything to Chesterfield. Winkle stored all the furniture and shelving at no cost to the library. "Amazingly, the Chesterfield Library was able to double its adult shelving, add mahogany end caps and make the library look traditional, warm and inviting," said Lusardi, "and with no cost to the taxpayer."

For the grand opening, the U.S. Marines were invited to conduct the flag raising. U.S. Rep. Candice Miller sent the library a flag that had flown over the U.S. Capitol. Representatives from U.S. Sen. Carl Levin's office and State House Rep. Dan Acciavatti's office, County Commissioners Kathy Vosburg and Brian Brdak, and state Sen. Alan Sanborn all attended the celebration of the library's long-awaited move.

The enduring effects of the partnership between the Chesterfield Township Library and the Macomb County Department of Planning and Economic Development will be felt for years to come. The two groups forged a partnership that resulted in a new library for the community and will be nominated for a National Association of Counties achievement award program.

To learn more about this exemplary library project, contact Midge Lusardi at (586) 598-4900 or [lusardim@libcoop.net](mailto:lusardim@libcoop.net).

*A handful of young library patrons enjoys "Teen Night" activities at Chesterfield Township Library's vibrantly decorated new location.*



## Legal-Ease

### Common Threads in Library Law

*By Lance M. Werner, library law specialist, Library of Michigan*

#### Questions on tax status

I frequently hear questions regarding the tax status of Michigan's public libraries. Generally, these issues arise in connection with library grant-seeking endeavors. It is no secret that it is highly desirable to find and secure alternate sources of funding.

Most of the questions have two common threads. The first thread pertains to public libraries and their status as charitable organizations under Michigan law. The second involves public libraries and their federal tax status. Based on communications I have had with librarians, I feel it would be useful to furnish clarification in article form.

#### Commonalities

Virtually all public libraries<sup>1</sup> in Michigan share some common traits. They are primarily funded with public funds and have a board. They also have the same tax status when purchasing goods and services for public library use.

All legally established public libraries, including district libraries, are either departments of local governments or else are regional governmental entities and are considered political subdivisions in their own right. Both local and district libraries function as municipal corporations. Political subdivisions and units of local government have tax-exempt status under Michigan and federal laws.

Under Michigan law, a public library's tax status with respect to sales and use tax is found in section 4h of the General Sales Tax Act, 1933 PA 167, MCL 205.54h, and section 4(g) of the Use Tax Act, 1937 PA 94, MCL 205.94. In short, these sections provide that sales of goods to political subdivisions, such as libraries, are exempt from Michigan sales and use tax. The statutes can be accessed through the Michigan Legislature's website at <http://www.legislature.mi.gov/>.

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Public library tax status is also addressed in federal law. Section 115 of the Internal Revenue Code states that “gross income” does not include any income derived from the performance of an essential governmental function, including income obtained by state political subdivisions. It is noteworthy that section 170(c)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code allows donors to claim income tax charitable deductions for donations made to political subdivisions. Based on public library status as a tax-exempt political subdivision, donations made to a library qualify as charitable deductions. The URL for the IRS explanation of how to affirm tax-exempt status can be found at: <http://www.irs.gov/govt/fslg/article/0,,id=112708,00.html>.

## Conclusion

Michigan’s public libraries function in whole or in part as political subdivisions of the state and have tax-exempt status under state and federal law. Libraries that are seeking documentation of their federal tax-exempt status for grant-application purposes can contact the Internal Revenue Service. The IRS offers governmental entities a special service, sending free “government affirmation letters” upon request. These letters can be obtained by calling the IRS at (877) 829-5500. The “government affirmation letter” may well suffice when a library seeks a grant and the grant-giving organization requires confirmation of the library’s tax-exempt status during the application process.

Libraries may be able to supply grant-giving organizations with a “Michigan Sales and Use Tax Certificate of Exemption”, Form 3372 (Rev. 11-01). Such forms could suffice as adequate documentation of tax status for granting activities in some cases.

Libraries desiring additional information about their Michigan tax status may wish to contact the Michigan Department of Treasury. Libraries can also obtain helpful advice and counsel on tax matters from their attorney.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this article, please contact Lance M. Werner at (517) 373-1299.

<sup>1</sup> “Public libraries” means libraries that have been created under Michigan law, city charter, or city ordinance.

## Get Smart

# 2006 Beginning Workshop Will Feature Two Tracks

by Debra Bacon-Ziegler

In response to both participant feedback and a recent survey, the 2006 Beginning Workshop will feature two workshop tracks. Beginning Workshop is the Library of Michigan’s annual public library “boot camp” for individuals who need to earn the Level VII Certificate of Library Experience as well as those who are looking for an introduction to public library land. The 2006 workshop is scheduled for June 5-7 at North Central Michigan College in Petoskey.

The first track will target new public library directors, specifically those directors heading up Class I, II and III libraries. The director track will feature sessions designed to prepare the new director for the administrative responsibilities of public library work. Topics such as leadership and board/director roles, funding and fiscal control will highlight the director curriculum.

For front-line public library staff, the second track will focus on the basics of public library service to patrons. By popular demand, a new session on customer service and handling difficult patrons will join the familiar lineup of classes on reference, youth and teen services and more.

To foster networking and camaraderie, participants in both tracks will come together for meals, breaks, and a joint session on library law. On Monday evening, participants are free to explore Petoskey and its many attractions. Tuesday will feature an informative and entertaining after-dinner presentation by an author or storyteller.

For additional information, including a registration form, visit <http://www.michigan.gov/lma>. Registration priority will be given to those individuals who are required to obtain the Level VII Certificate of Library Experience. Questions? Call (517) 373-3746.



# HAL Highlights

## Explore “The Magic of Michigan” During Michigan Week, May 20-26

The Michigan Department of History, Arts and Libraries encourages libraries around the state to take part in the grand tradition of Michigan Week, an annual salute to the best Michigan has to offer. Taking place May 20-26, Michigan Week ([www.michigan.gov/michiganweek](http://www.michigan.gov/michiganweek)) gives Michiganders the opportunity to celebrate all that makes our communities, our businesses, our schools and our collective heritage unique and worth sharing.

The Michigan Week 2006 theme – “Great Lakes, Great Traditions: The Magic of Michigan” – highlights both our state’s history of magic from Houdini to Blackstone and the many treasures that make life in Michigan magical, from bountiful natural resources and wonderful homegrown products to unique tourist sites and abundant arts and cultural assets.

Libraries can participate in Michigan Week in a variety of ways, from something as simple as a book display to a weeklong celebration with activities for kids and adults. Here are just a few ideas:

- Arrange a magic show at the library.
- Set up a display of Michigan Notable Books. Host a book discussion on one or more of these or other Michigan-themed books. See more about the Notable Books earlier in this issue of *LM4X*.
- Invite an author who lives in or writes about Michigan to speak at the library. For a guide on how to arrange an author visit, see [www.michigan.gov/authorvisits](http://www.michigan.gov/authorvisits).
- Display some of your library’s local history materials. Hold an open house and invite the public in to learn more about these unique items. Ask a local historian to present a program about your community’s history.

- Create a display of Michigan movies available for checkout from your library. Host a Michigan film festival. For a list of movies made in Michigan, visit [www.michigan.gov/filmooffice](http://www.michigan.gov/filmooffice) and click on the “Features Filmed in Michigan” link on the left side of the page.
- Plan a children’s story hour with a Michigan theme or another youth program that teaches kids about their state’s heritage. For more information and tools for teaching Michigan history, visit [www.michigan.gov/teachingmihistory](http://www.michigan.gov/teachingmihistory).
- Ask a historical re-enactor to perform to help bring Michigan history to life for your patrons.
- Invite an artist, photographer or musician who features Michigan or Great Lakes themes to show/play and speak about their work.
- Help patrons discover the historic sites in your community, using the Historic Sites Online database at [www.michigan.gov/historicsites](http://www.michigan.gov/historicsites).
- Offer a program to teach patrons about the many resources available to state residents through the Michigan eLibrary (<http://mel.org>).
- Coordinate a storytelling festival with tellers from the area sharing tall tales, legends and histories of the county.
- Include the Michigan Week logo on promotional materials for your event.

Or you may come up with your own unique Michigan Week activities. However you plan to celebrate, the Department of History, Arts and Libraries can help get the word out with its online listing of Michigan Week events around the state. To tell us about your event, fill out the registration form at [http://www.michigan.gov/hal/0,1607,7-160-17447\\_18630\\_22778-73406—,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/hal/0,1607,7-160-17447_18630_22778-73406—,00.html).

For more information about Michigan Week, please visit the Michigan Week Web page at [www.michigan.gov/michiganweek](http://www.michigan.gov/michiganweek) or contact Jim Schultz at (517) 373-1586 or [schultzjh@michigan.gov](mailto:schultzjh@michigan.gov).

To receive and share news and ideas with other people planning to celebrate Michigan Week, sign up for the Michigan Week-l e-mail list at <http://lists.libraryofmichigan.org/mailman/listinfo/michiganweek-l>.



# Looking for Summer Camps? Michigan Historical Museum Makes History Sizzle This Summer

History will, once again, be hot this summer as the Michigan Historical Museum presents its annual Summer Sizzles day camp. The camp, now in its sixth year, offers a variety of programming for children age 9 through 12. New this year will be special advanced topic sessions for 13- to 16-year-olds.

Summer Sizzles takes kids into Michigan's storied past by engaging them in crafts, discussions, activities and tours, using the fascinating galleries of the museum. Major topics covered this year include magic in Michigan, the history of etiquette, early automobiles, surveying, and the history of money. These weeklong sessions will be offered June 19 to 23 (9 a.m. to noon), July 10 to 14 (1 to 4 p.m.), July 24 to 28 (9 a.m. to noon), and August 7 to 11 (1 to 4 p.m.). Day camp tuition is \$55 per week.

The new two- and three-day sessions for teens include:

- **Michigan's Civil War Battle Flags**  
**June 27 and 28, 9 a.m. to noon.** Fee: \$22
- **Immigrants and Their Influence on the History of Michigan's Capitol**  
**July 18-20, 9 a.m. to noon.** Fee: \$33

In addition, Library of Michigan staff will once again present Gene Sprouts, a half-day program that gives kids (age 9-12) the opportunity to explore their family history with fun activities. Participants will create a personal timeline, discover the meaning of their name, search newspapers to discover what happened on their birthday and more!

For more information or to register a child, call (517) 373-1905. Deadline to register is June 5, 2004.

The Michigan Historical Museum is located inside the Michigan Library and Historical Center, 702 W. Kalamazoo St., two blocks west of the State Capitol in downtown Lansing. To learn more about the museum, visit [www.michigan.gov/museum](http://www.michigan.gov/museum).



## Library of Michigan Closed Sundays Beginning April 2006

Due to budget constraints, State Librarian Nancy Robertson and management staff at the Library of Michigan have made the decision to close on Sundays, beginning in April 2006.

The library's public hours will be:

**Monday and Thursday:** . . . . . 1 to 6 p.m.  
**Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday:** . . . . . 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
**Saturday:** . . . . . 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
**Sunday:** . . . . . Closed

As always, we will do our best to serve patrons as efficiently as possible. Thank you for your patience.

Library of Michigan and Department of History, Arts and Libraries' administrative offices and conference rooms remain operational and accessible 8 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays.